

**CLAIMS****What is claimed is:**

- 5     1. A tire tread comprising:  
          at least one vulcanized elastomer;  
          a bismuth trioxide filler; and  
          a tread-grade carbon black filler.
- 10    2. A tire tread comprising:  
          at least one vulcanized elastomer;  
          from about 1 to about 80 parts by weight bismuth trioxide per 100 parts by  
weight vulcanized elastomer; and  
          from about 1 to about 100 parts by weight of a tread-grade carbon black per  
15    100 parts by weight vulcanized elastomer.
3. The tire tread of claim 2, where the tread-grade carbon black has a surface  
area (ASTM D-6556) in excess of  $65 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .
- 20    4. The tire tread of claim 2, where the tread-grade carbon black has a surface  
area (ASTM D-6556) in excess of  $70 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .
5. The tire tread of claim 2, where the tread-grade carbon black has a DBP No.  
(ASTM D-2414) in excess of  $75 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$ .
- 25    6. The tire tread of claim 2, where the tread-grade carbon black has a DBP No.  
(ASTM D-2414) in excess of  $85 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$ .
7. The tire tread of claim 2, further comprising from about 10 to about 90 parts  
30    by weight inorganic filler per 100 parts by weight vulcanized elastomer.
8. The tire tread of claim 7, where the inorganic filler is silica.

9. A vulcanizable rubber composition for tire treads comprising:  
an elastomer;  
from about 1 to about 80 parts by weight bismuth trioxide per 100 parts  
by weight elastomer; and  
5 from about 1 to about 100 parts by weight of a tread-grade carbon  
black per 100 parts by weight elastomer.
10. The composition of claim 9, where the tread-grade carbon black has a surface  
area (ASTM D-6556) in excess of  $65 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .
- 10 11. The composition of claim 9, where the tread-grade carbon black has a surface  
area (ASTM D-6556) in excess of  $70 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .
12. The composition of claim 9, where the tread-grade carbon black has a DBP  
15 No. (ASTM D-2414) in excess of  $75 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$ .
13. The composition of claim 9, where the tread-grade carbon black has a DBP  
No. (ASTM D-2414) in excess of  $85 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$ .
- 20 14. The composition of claim 9, further comprising from about 10 to about 90  
parts by weight inorganic filler per 100 parts by weight elastomer.
15. The composition of claim 14, where the inorganic filler is silica.
- 25 16. The composition of claim 9, where the composition comprises from 3 to 20  
parts by weight metal oxide filler per 100 parts by weight elastomer.